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THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Disappointment of the Hopes of the Faction who are for a Popish Prince and a French *Government, by the Parliament's vigorous Proceeding to enable the Queen to reduce the exorbitant Power of* France; *and checking the Divisions the Faction began to foment, by approving her Majesty's Administration, and the Conduct of her General. On the Zeal of the Commons to preserve the Freedom of Elections, and how contrary this is to the Practice and Principles of the arbitrary Faction. On the Order of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of* London, *to put the Laws in Execution against Prophaneness and Immorality: And farther Remarks on Dr.* Sacheverell's *slandering the Societies of Reformation, &c.*

From Saturday, November 19. to Wednesday, November 23. 1709.

Obs. WHAT News have you now, *Roger?*

Country-m. All very good, blessed be God, Master; every Thing frowns upon the Faction who are for a Popish Prince and a *French* Government; Providence seems to have declar'd against them, first, by giving them up to Folly and Madness, which makes them every Day more and more odious, by the Discovery of their tyrannical and persecuting Principles. Their 30th of *January* and 5th of *November* Sermons have expos'd their Clergy as much as their Occasional Bills and Tacks did their Layety; so that all the World sees now *there's never a Barrel better Herring:* And their new Champions, the *Sacheverells* and *Rehearsals Reviv'd*, have run themselves into Contempt and Censure; and, instead of promoting their Poyson, have prov'd an Antidote against it. In the next place, Master, every Thing goes cross with them; their *Green Shields* and other Tools, are as odious in *Scotland*, as their *Sacheverells* are in *England*; there needs no more but taking off the Mask, to make their Features hateful to all Men, who have the least Skill in Physiognomy; for Tyranny, Popery, and Sedition, appear so plain in their Features, that he who runs, may read them. Besides, Master, our Lords and Commons have given them a fatal Blow at the very Opening of the Session; they have declar'd themselves for War Abroad, and Peace at Home, quite contrary to the ill-grounded Hopes of the malignant Faction, who were for embroiling us among our selves, in order to encourage the common Enemy.

Obs. I am very glad to hear such an Account of Matters from you, *Roger:* You were us'd to be now and then troubl'd with the Hippo; I congratulate your Change of Temper.

Country-m. The Season has always a mighty Influence upon me, Master; as that changes for the better, so do I. When I see the Revolution-Interest run down, and the Foundations of the Government sapp'd with Impunity, I cannot forbear to be a little chagrin; but when I perceive the Enemies of our Peace check'd, and the Clouds that threaten our Religion and Liberty, dispers'd, my Countenance clears with the Sky.

Obs. Pray, *Roger*, be a little more particular, that I may be chearful as well as you; for when your Countenance looks cloudy, mine cannot be very serene, there's such a Sympathy betwixt us.

Country-m. I'll quickly enumerate the Particulars, Master. In the first place, I am glad to see the *Whig-Principles* get the Ascendant over those of *Tyranny and Slavery*, and am hugely pleas'd to find our Noble Patriots the Commons, by their Votes of the 15th Instant, take so much Care to secure the Freedom of Elections against the Influence of Peers, Lord Lieutenants, Bribery, and other corrupt Practices. Not that I think the Majority of our present Lords would make an ill Use of their Influence, since they are known to be as great Patriots of our Liberties, as ever had the Honour to sit in the Upper House. This was manifest by their espousing the Interest of the People, and the Freedom of Elections, when we had a Set of Commons who would have sacrific'd all to their own Bigotry and Party-piques; but we are never to allow the Ballance to be broke, or the Priviledges of either House to be intrench'd upon by Courtiers, or one another, lest we should lose that happy Ballance which has preserv'd our Government from Age to Age, more pure and incorrupted than any other Government now in *Europe*.

Obs. Your Observation is very just, *Roger*; and this Conduct of our honourable Patriots, the Commons, is so much the more seasonable at this Juncture, because it gives the Lie to a common and malicious Reflexion of the perverse Faction, That the Whigs are as much for giving up our Liberties now, as the Tories were formerly. This is a plain Demonstration of the Falshood of that Charge; whereas we can make it appear from the Writings and Practices of the other Party, that they run down the Power of the House of Commons, compar'd them to an *Excrescence* on the Body politick, *like a Wart* on the natural Body, would allow 'em to have no other Original, than the Royal Grant, and that too but of a late Date; and that the King or Queen might name whom they pleas'd to sit in that House: Nor did they deal any more favourably with our noble Patriots, the Lords, but alledg'd, that the Crown might call such of them as they pleas'd to Parliament, and leave out the rest; so that they would have quite destroy'd the Ballance of our Government, and have made it as arbitrary as that of *Turky* or *France*. Any Man that will but cast an Eye on the Prerogative-Authors in the Reigns of King *Charles* the IIst and IId, such as the Doctors *Heylin*, *Sibthorp*, *Manwaring*, *Brady*, &c. may soon be convinc'd of this; and every one knows the *Vox Cleri pro Rege*, our Universities and Pulpits run all that Way, and did what they could to make us Slaves, by their Doctrine of Passive-Obedience, which was ill understood, and worse apply'd by them; but blessed be God, the Nation's Eyes are now open, to see the Falshood of those Principles. We have a House of Commons, who own *there's a Duty which they owe to those they represent, as well as to the Crown*, as appears by their late Address. These they join together for the Support of our happy Constitution, and from a *Sense of both*, which are *inseparable*, they promise to support her Majesty in carrying on the War, till it be brought to a happy Conclusion; and in this our noble House of Lords, who represent themselves, have, by their excellent Address, testify'd their Concurrence.

Country-m. This good Harmony betwixt the Head and the Members, is the Joy of all true *Britains*, Master, as 'tis the Grief of the Faction, who are for a Popish Prince, and a *French* Government. We see by their late Pamphlets and Sermons, that they

they chim'd in with the Designs of the common Enemy, to sow Divisions among us; and having fail'd by their Occasional Bills and Tacks, to invade the Rights of the People of *England*, and to get the House of Commons to be only the Representatives of a Faction, they have been restless in their Endeavours to sow Animosities among us, by their uncharitable and virulent Sermons and Pamphlets, nothing less than *an Attack upon the Toleration, and upon the Conduct of her Majesty's Ministers and Generals*, would serve their Turn. You know how industrious they have been to misrepresent both, by their seditious News-Letters, and other Libels, in order to raise Heats, to retard the Proceedings of Parliament, and to hinder the raising of Supplies: But, blessed be God, they are disappointed, both Houses proceed with Vigor to support her Majesty, according to their Duty to the Queen and the Nation, to reduce the exorbitant and oppressive Power of *France*; so that the Poyson of *Lauds and Lads* Chaplains, serves only to corrode their own Bowels, without doing that Mischief to the Nation they intended, by shedding it in such abundance from the Pulpit and Press.

Obs. This shews, *Roger*, that you and I were right in our Conjectures, when we foretold the Faction they would meet with a Cooler, and that their false Pretences of Zeal for the Monarchy and the Church, would not be able to cover their mischievous Designs.

Country-m. I cannot but laugh, Master, to see how Dr. *Sacheverell* has spent his Lungs in vain, by his *Derbyshire* and other Sermons, and particularly with Respect to the Societies of Reformation; for instead of blasting the Designs of those worthy Persons, there's an Order of the Lord-Mayor, by the Advice of his Brethren the Aldermen, lately publish'd, for putting the Laws in Execution within the Jurisdiction of the City, against all Manner of Vice, Prophaneness, and Immorality in all Persons whatsoever; and his Lordship and the Court are so far from thinking *INFORMING* against Vice such an odious Practice, as the Doctor seem'd to represent it in his *Derbyshire* Sermon, that they have recommended it to their Fellow Citizens, to take Notice of the Negligence, Partiality, and Connivance of the Officers and Ministers of Justice, in punishing Vice, and from Time to Time to give *INFORMATION* of it to his Lordship, or some other Justice of the Peace, that they may be proceeded against for such their Remissness, with the utmost Rigor, according to Law.

Obs. That's a just Rebuke to the Doctor indeed, *Roger*; though the Church-wardens of *St. Saviours Southwark*, fail of their Duty, to represent their *Ladean* Chaplain's Misbehaviour to the Bishop, according to the Canon, in order to suspend him, 'till he promise to forbear his Contention, the Magistrates of the honourable City of *London* know better Things, than to neglect theirs. They are not always to suffer a wrong Use to be made of the *CITY SWORD*, that it should patronize seditious Sermons, or hinder *fiery Ecclesiasticks* from having a just Rebuke. 'Tis their Duty to see it drawn against Vice and Sedition, for the Punishment of evil Doers, according to the Trust repos'd in them by God and her Majesty, whose punishing Prophaneness, Irreligion, and Immorality, is but a just Retribution to Heaven, who has made her so frequently to triumph over her Enemies, and the best Way of Thanksgiving.

Country-m. We may see the Spirit of the Party, Master; they are Enemies to Vertue, as well as Liberty; otherwise the Doctor would never have fallen so foul upon the Societies of Reformation, who can expect nothing in this World, but their Labour and Expence, with the Reproach and Hatred of ill Men, for the Pains they take to see the Laws of God and the Queen put in Execution against Prophaneness and Immorality. But their Views are higher, and their Witness is in Heaven, as well as among good Men upon Earth. Their Sincerity is evident from this, among many other Instances, that even in such Cases where the Laws allow part of the Fine to the Informers, they would never touch one Farthing of it, but always give it to the Poor, tho' the vast Expence they are at in prosecuting those odious Criminals, might very well have justify'd their applying it to lessen their own Charge, or to reward such Officers as serve their God and their Country faithfully.

Obs. You say very well, *Roger*. The Doctor might have avoided the Scandal he has justly brought upon himself by slandering those Societies, and his fiery Sermons against moderate Church-men and Dissenters, had he taken the Advice of the worthy Author of the *Account of those Societies*, printed in 1699, pag. 27. where he has this excellent Passage, 'Let our learned *Rabbies*, the great Disputers of the 'World, and all that make a Profession of Religi'on, but give little better Account of it, than by 'expressing a *fierce and uncharitable Heat against those* 'that differ from 'em in some Things relating to Reli'gion, but not essential to it, and wherein all Men e'qually wise and good, have I doubt never yet been fu'ly agreed, think seriously with themselves, whe'ther they might not employ some Share at least of 'their Parts and Zeal to much better Purpose, in 'furthering the Reformation of Mens Lives, and of the 'Manners of the Nation, by the suppressing of Pro'phaneness and Vice, than by raising or keeping 'up with an *unchristian Temper*, to the manifest 'Injury of Religion, which is an Institution of 'Love, *dangerous or unnecessary Controversies or Di'visions*, and making of Proselytes to their *new O'pinions or Party*.

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